

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2026)70-DEC
30 March 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Strasbourg, France Monday 30 March 2026

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

1. The President of the Congress, Marc COOLS opened the meeting. The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.
2. The Bureau adopted the revised agenda as set out in Appendix 2
3. The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Congress.
4. The Bureau took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress.
5. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and took note of the update on the contribution of the Congress to reforms in the field of decentralisation and multilevel governance, including in the context of the preparation of the new Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2027-2030. It took note that on 1-2 April 2026, the Council of Europe would co-moderate with the Ukrainian Parliament, in Strasbourg, the 5th High-Level Dialogue on decentralisation, good governance and elections in Ukraine.
6. The Bureau took note of the oral reports by the 1st Vice-Presidents of the Chambers of the meetings of the Chamber Bureaux held on 30 March 2026.
7. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
8. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings for the 50th Session as set out in document CG(2026)50-01 and of the timetable and deadlines for elections during the session.

It approved the draft agenda of the session as set out in document CG(2026)50-OJ.

It took note of the chairing of the plenary sittings as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)70-19, the side-events of the session and the additional events taking place in the sidelines of the High-Level Dialogue as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)70-20, and the list of youth delegates as set out in document CG(2026)50-06.

9. The Bureau approved the changes to official appointments procedures set out in document CG-BUR(2026)70-25, took note of the information set out in document CG-BUR(2026)70-18REV and approved the composition of national delegations as set out in document CG(2026)50-04REV.

It approved the draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials and appointments procedures as set out in document CG(2026)50-02prov.

The Bureau took note of the request that it consider introducing in future a qualification for the verification of national delegations, that local and regional elections have been held in accordance with minimum Council of Europe standards on elections.

10. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the intention to create a new political group in the Congress, with the name Patriots for Europe. 29 members from 6 countries had indicated their intention to join the group. The Bureau took note that not all of these members had signed the Code of Conduct, meaning that the requirement of a composition including members from 6 countries had not yet been met.

11. The Bureau decided to appoint at its 71st meeting on 2 April 2026 the new standing and deputy standing rapporteurs on human rights, and to examine separately the appointments of the other functions in its remit.

12. The Bureau held an exchange of views on the situation in Georgia, Türkiye and Belarus.

It approved terms of reference for a Bureau report on the role of local and regional authorities in supporting Belarusian democratic forces and civil society in exile, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)70-24, and appointed Cecilia DALMAN EEK (Sweden, R, SOC/G/PD) as rapporteur.

13. The Bureau took note of the information regarding Congress activities in respect of local and regional elections

14. The Bureau took note of the Activity report 2025 of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)70-23.

15. The Bureau took note of the replies from the Committee of Ministers to Congress Recommendation 527 (2025) "Empowering cities and regions to combat human trafficking for labour exploitation" and Congress Recommendation 537 (2025) "European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life".

It took note of the latest information regarding the activities of the CDDEM.

16. The Bureau held an exchange of views on contacts with members of Russian democratic forces in exile.

17. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)70-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), President of the Congress
Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
David ERAY, Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE)
Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)
Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, ILDG)
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)
Stephen SULTANA, Malta (R, SOC/G/PD)
Alexander BOOMGAARS, Netherlands (L, SOC/G/PD)

Chairs of committees

Soeren SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD), 1st Vice Chair of the Monitoring Committee

Presidents of Congress political groups

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE)
Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)
Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, ILDG)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, CRE/ECR)

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress
Daniel POPESCU, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
Stéphanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Sarah BURTON, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Table Office
Sanja LESKOVAC, Assistant to the Table Office

Appendix 2 – Agenda

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|-----------|---|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Opening of the meeting | | |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | CG-BUR(2026)70-OJ
CG-BUR(2026)69-DEC | <i>Dec.
Info.</i> |
| 3. | Communication by the President of the Congress | | |
| | Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress | CG-BUR(2026)70-16 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 4. | Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress | | |
| | Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress | CG-BUR(2026)70-17 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 5. | Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine | | |
| | Recent developments | | |
| 6. | Chamber sessions: meetings of 30 March 2026 | CPR-BUR(2026)45-OJ
CPL-BUR(2026)45-OJ | <i>Info.
Info.</i> |
| 7. | Budget of the Congress | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 8. | 50th Session of the Congress, 31 March-2 April 2026 | | |
| 8.1 | Schedule of meetings | CG(2026)50-01 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 8.2 | Elections during the session | Document session | <i>Info.</i> |
| 8.3 | Approval of the draft agenda | 30.03 CG(2026)50-OJ | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 8.4 | Chairing of the plenary sittings | 30.03 CG-BUR(2026)70-19 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 8.5 | Side events | CG-BUR(2026)70-20 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 8.6 | Youth delegates in 2026 | 27.03 CG(2026)50-06 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 9. | National delegations | | |
| | Rapporteurs :
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) | | |
| 9.1 | Changes to official appointment procedures | CG-BUR(2026)70-25 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 9.2 | Renewal of delegations | 30.03 CG(2026)50-04REV
CG-BUR(2026)70-18REV | <i>Dec.
Info.</i> |

9.3	Preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures	27.03 CG-BUR(2026)70-22	Dec.
10.	Creation of a new political group		Info.
11.	Standing rapporteurs on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives of the Congress in external bodies		
	Current situation	30.03 CG-BUR(2026)70-21	Dec.
12.	Local and regional democracy		Info.
12.1	Türkiye		
12.2	Georgia		
12.3	Belarus	CG-BUR(2026)70-24	Dec.
13.	Local and regional elections	25.03 link	Info.
14.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions		
	2025 Activity report of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance	26.03 CG-BUR(2026)70-23	Info.
15.	Intergovernmental sector		
15.1	Replies from the Committee of Ministers to the texts approved by the Congress	CM/Cong(2026)Rec537-final CM/Cong(2026)Rec527-final	Info. Info.
15.2	CDDEM (Steering Committee on Democracy)		Info.
16.	Other business		Info.
17.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2026)70-DEC	Dec.

Close of the meeting

Dates and places of next meetings:

- Strasbourg, Thursday 2 April 2026
- Monaco, Thursday 18 June 2026
- Strasbourg, Friday 11 September 2026
- Strasbourg, Monday 26 and Thursday 29 October 2026
- Strasbourg, Tuesday 8 December 2026

to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat

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